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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

SP - 145/75  
23 December 1975

National Intelligence Officers

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert W. Galvin  
President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board  
SUBJECT: "Track Record" Study

1. This is to confirm the understanding we reached yesterday that a group of three or four people, qualified in the subject matter but not recently directly involved in intelligence estimating, will be commissioned to review the record of national estimates on Soviet strategic forces and programs over the past ten years, to determine the accuracy of the estimates made on major topics.
2. The topics examined will be those with relevance to the viability of the three "legs" of the US deterrent "triad," namely the survivability and penetrability of our ICBM, SLBM, and strategic bomber weapon systems. The types of estimates examined will include estimates of the quantity and quality of Soviet forces, and of the timing of the advent of new or improved Soviet weapon systems. A list of those topics which PFIAB particularly wishes to have included in the review is attached, but the review may include other topics at the discretion of the study group.
3. The group should produce a report to PFIAB, with target date for completion at the end of January 1976. The report should comprise a brief, evaluative summary plus detailed backup. It is recognized that in the review it will in some cases be possible to compare estimates with the facts which subsequently emerged, while in other cases it will be possible only to compare earlier estimates with later estimates. In all cases, an attempt should be made to determine the reasons for accuracy, error, change, or absence of change in estimates.
4. The group will include several recently-retired intelligence officers with broad experience in the field. If Commander Olmer of the PFIAB staff could also participate, this would in my view contribute to the quality and objectivity of the review.

Howard Stoertz, Jr.  
National Intelligence Officer  
for Strategic Programs

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Attachment

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TOPICS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO PFIAB

(Review to include but not be limited to the following)

a. ICBMs

- Inventory
- Hard target capabilities

b. SLBMs (SSBNs)

- Inventory

c. Bombers

- Inventories

d. Missile Defenses

- ABM inventories
- Improved ABMs

e. Air Defenses

(1) Interceptors

- Inventories
- Improved air surveillance and control

(2) Surface-to-Air Missiles

- Inventories
- Low altitude capabilities
- New SAM Systems

f. Defenses Against Ballistic Missile Submarines

- Overall capabilities

g. Strategic Goals/The Strategic Balance

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